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REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application. Claims 1-17 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-17 are canceled and new claims 18-37 are presented.

Claims 1 3-7, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al (US Patent 6,444,976). Claims 2,8, 10, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al (US Patent 6,444,976).

It is respectfully submitted that the features of the present claims are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Ishikawa.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-37 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Ralph J. Crispino

Registration No. 46,144

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REVEO, INC.
Customer No. 26665
3 Westchester Plaza
Elmsford, New York 10523
Telephone (914) 345-9555
Facsimile: (914) 345-9558